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Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development

Statement submitted by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.9/2003/1.

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Annex

Statement in support of a global event on population and development in 2005

In its Programme of Action, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 set three sets of specific goals for (1) provision of family planning and other reproductive health services, (2) reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality, and (3) universal access to primary education, with particular attention to the girl child. The Conference also pledged its full support for programmes aimed at ensuring reproductive rights as well as gender equality, equity and empowerment of women.

These goals and pledges are to be achieved by 2015; however, the Conference also suggested segmentation of these goals, as appropriate, to measure progress and to deal with problems and difficulties encountered in implementing them. The five-year review of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in 1999 added a new goal on HIV/AIDS prevention.

As the five-year review of 1999 has clearly shown, while progress is being made in many countries towards these goals, achieving them by 2015 seems unlikely without demonstration of increased political will from all Governments as well as reaffirmation of the commitment for mobilization of the international assistance agreed at Cairo. In this context, we consider it imperative to hold a global event in 2005 which will (1) measure progress at the national, regional and international levels towards implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, with particular reference to the specific time-bound goals and objectives, (2) analyse problems and difficulties encountered and suggest practical and realistic solutions, and (3) refocus international attention on the importance and urgency of population and development issues in the fight against poverty, ignorance, disease and environmental degradation.

It must be clearly recognized that such an international event will not seek to reopen any of the agreements reached at Cairo or Cairo+5. The event, however, should provide an extremely valuable opportunity to draw valuable lessons from various operational experiences, to examine emerging developments and to propose further action needed.

We pledge ourselves to promote and support the initiative taken in this direction and call upon the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Population Fund, the Commission on Population and Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, and all members of the international community, including Governments, national, regional and international institutions, NGOs and foundations, to participate urgently in the establishment and implementation of a global agreement for the realization of such an initiative.

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